(a) whether Government has received any communication from the State Governments seeking financial assistance for implementing the Right to Information Act; and

(b) the details in this regard and along with the details of the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government to provide States with the financial assistance required to implement the RTI Act during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) State Governments like the Government of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura and Uttarakhand had sought Central assistance for implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The Parliament has, by law, cast an obligation on the State Governments to implement the Act. The State Governments are required to meet the statutory obligation out of their own funds. However, the Government has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which funds are provided, *inter-alia*, for strengthening the State Information Commission (SIC) and for capacity building on RTI through the State level Administrative Training Institute (ATI). In this regard, a sum of Rs.4.90 crore has been released to the State Information Commissions during 2008-09 and 2009-10 under the scheme and a sum of Rs.3.27 crore to the Administrative Training Institutes during these periods.

Problems of PIOs

†*220. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists any mechanism to hear and understand the problems being faced by the persons of Indian origin in various countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The Ministry holds annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conventions, thus creating a platform for Overseas Indians including PIOs to voice their concerns and expectations from the Government of India. Seven such Conventions have been held so far since 2003.

In addition to this flagship annual event of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, an effort is made to reach out to sections of the vast overseas Indian community, who are unable to participate in the annual Conventions held in India, by holding mini versions of the PBD Conventions at places abroad on a regional basis by rotation. Three such regional mini PBDs have been held at New York (2007), Singapore (2008) and the Hague (2009).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

As a result of wider consultations held at these Conventions, decisions were taken by the government on the establishment of Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre, conceptualisation of PIO University, formation of Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of People of Indian Origin, setting up of the India Development Foundation and launching of The Global Indian Network of Knowledge (Global-INK).

For the Indian workers in the Gulf countries, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has made concerted efforts to enter into bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to protect their interests and welfare. MoUs have been signed with UAE in December, 2006, with Kuwait in April 2007, with Oman in November 2008, with Malaysia in January 2009 and with Bahrain in June, 2009. The MoUs contain broad principles for enhancing employment opportunities and for ensuring that the recruitment and terms of employment are in conformity with the laws of both the Countries, measures to be taken by the host Country for protection and welfare of the workers and constitution of a Joint Working Group for effective implementation of the MoUs.

All these mechanisms facilitate better understanding of the problems and concerns of people of Indian origin in various countries.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Atomic power plants

†1522. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of atomic power plants functioning in country at present and power generation capacity of each of them;

(b) the number of new atomic reactors under construction/proposed to be constructed;

(c) whether it is a fact that old atomic reactors are not able to generate power to their capacity owing to the paucity of Uranium;

(d) whether Uranium has been arranged for the new atomic reactors under construction; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) There are seventeen reactors in operation in the country. The details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Six nuclear power reactors with a total capacity of 3160 MW are under construction. The Government has accorded financial sanction for start of work on four more reactors with total capacity of 2800 MW in October 2009. The work on these reactors has begun. More reactors are also planned.